



Washington State
Department of Transportation

NW Region Utilities Office

Utility Permit or Franchise Application
Scenic Classification Variance Request
Justification Questionnaire

Permit/Franchise No.:		Date:	
SR		MP Limits:	to
Applicant:		Scenic Classification:	
Installation Description:			

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete Section 1-*Justification of Variance Proposal*. Check the Yes/No boxes as appropriate where indicated. Questions requiring further clarification should be answered on a separate sheet of paper. All questions must be answered. Unanswered questions could delay approval of you utility permit or franchise application. Section 2-*Regional Considerations* is to be completed by WSDOT Regional Utilities Office and are attached for your information only.

SECTION 1-***Justification of Variance Proposal*** (to be completed by applicant)

Variance Request Description

1. Please explain the nature of your Variance Request and why the installation is a Variance:

Existing Right of Way Conditions

2. Provide photographs showing the existing conditions and scenic vistas on both sides of highway at or along the location of the proposed installation. Include any vegetated areas, wetlands, geologic features, guardrail, drainage features, or other items that may be considered valuable to the scenic quality of this section of highway.

Special Exceptions Consideration

3. Is the proposed utility installation a power lines in excess of 35 Kv? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. If yes, explain the special design features that will be incorporated into the project that are intended to minimize the visual impact of the proposed facility if approved:
5. Are alternative routes or locations available for installation of the proposed utility? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. If no, please explain why no alternative routes are available. Provide aerial photographs, mapping, or other evidence supporting this claim:
7. If alternative routes are available, describe below the number and location of the alternative routes

considered for the proposed facility (alternative routes *must* be considered in order to obtain justification approval):

8. Explain why these alternative routes were not selected:

9. Are the alternative locations visually more undesirable? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If yes, please explain. Support your explanation with photographic evidence and other documentation:

11. Is undergrounding the proposed utility technically feasible? ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. If no, please explain. Support your claim with geotechnical reports or similar evidence obtained during your research:

13. Will the cost of undergrounding adversely affect utility consumer rates? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. If yes, please explain. Provide engineering or other detailed calculations supporting your claim:

15. Will the cost of undergrounding have an adverse affect on the long-term economics of the utility? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16. If yes, please explain. Provide detailed data supporting your claim:

Additional Information

17. Provide any additional information that you feel supports this variance request:

SECTION 2-Regional Considerations (to be completed by WSDOT)

Background

1. Is the utility proposing to use existing utility poles as part of this installation? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If yes, who is the owner of the poles?
3. Are the existing poles properly franchised or permitted? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. If yes, what is the permit/franchise number that permits the poles?
5. If a franchise, has it been renewed at least once? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. If the franchise has not been renewed, is it expired? ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. If renewed, in what year is the current renewal due to expire?
8. Has the utility been informed that the franchise will need to be under-grounded at the next renewal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Administrative Assessment and Coordination

9. Is there a need for a notice of filing? ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. If yes, explain why:
11. Will the proposal have an adverse effect on the structural integrity, maintenance, appearance, or operation of the highway? ☐ Yes ☐ No
12. Will the utility installation affect design or construction of currently programmed projects? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. If yes, list the project and explain how the proposed utility installation will affect it:
14. Have appropriate design and construction offices been given an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed installation? ☐ Yes ☐ No
15. If so, what steps will be taken to coordinate utility installation with affected projects:

Region Utility Office Recommendation

- 16 What is the Regions recommendation regarding approval of this application: ☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove
17. Explain reasoning for approval or disapproval: